

# History of Everyday Life Database

Na druhý den jsme postupovali dle sil  
Punka, ráno v 8 s německým vojákem.  
Tedy Ruzar je došli vstoup. Vždy časy  
jme měli mnoho hladu, neboli chleba  
jme tedy dostávali jeden + bochník chleba.  
Kocár. Na jeden den i 12 mužů, zejména  
včak 6. Jak to stále trvalo tak bylo a hlad  
je jsme po cestě jedli masek, hloubky ba i  
celi hlavy seli. Dne 8 října jme přišli do  
Londomeca, tam jsem se sžil s touto

vařit, tu jak když  
Hned jsme toho s  
si každý asi víci. Z  
nemici, kde jme  
Jeste jme neměli  
a jsi psali na no  
ten den jme se na  
svivosti. Pak jsem  
pouští na vestra  
čisti selou  
vél bez př  
00 mužů  
no bylo p  
Hledl, dne  
i. Svango  
Dne 26 j  
am jme  
uslo, s  
orali sle  
keli, tam byl toho velký boj  
ny, nače jme jsiše pštoupl  
nao začali střílet z neontních  
rotu to bylo 2 dni se kon  
museli ustornit, dne 28



antiško Sk  
aten  
eph/Blogra  
uk. Franč  
.....  
..R. 29.....  
o ja o tel  
enwünscht.  
Autor: gel



**Science 106**  
Around  
Us  
Places  
of Common  
Memory



Czech Academy  
of Sciences



The Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences (IH CAS, [www.hiu.cas.cz](http://www.hiu.cas.cz)) is one of the Academy of Sciences institutes focusing on research of humanities and social sciences. It undertakes basic research in Czech, Czechoslovak and general history ranging from the Early Middle Ages to the present day. It occupies a leading position amongst the world's Bohemian Studies organisations and co-operates with an extensive network of domestic and international organisations of university and non-university type. In its departments focused on the Middle Ages, Early Modern Period, 19th and 20th century, Historical Geography, Biographic Studies and Bibliography, it creates key monograph and synthetic papers, atlases and volumes of historical sources, large encyclopaedic works of nationwide significance (the *Academic Encyclopaedia of Czech History*, the *Biographical Dictionary of the Czech Lands*), as well as bibliographic records of publications across the subject. The Institute also publishes the subject's central journals, *Český časopis historický*, Review of historical Slavic studies *Slovanský přehled*, and other specialised journals. Research is undertaken at the IH CAS's Prague headquarters, its Brno and České Budějovice offices, and at the Czech Historical Institute in Rome.

# Introduction

„Life stories of the ordinary people were not given a significant consideration in the past, and memories of the common folk were not valuable enough to be systematically researched or even collected for the needs of the future generations (...) Today, your stories can become a rare relic and fascinating reading for your children or grandchildren, as well as other yet unknown readers (...),“ wrote in the mid-1990s one of the founders of the project, sociologist Jana Losová, in her public appeal to the contemporary witnesses of the past.

*The Database of the History of Everyday Life* represents an international scientific research project aimed to form a collection of sources on the history of “everyday life”, being a valuable testimony of the lives people used to have in the past. Among the participants of the project are the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, as well as the Institute of Czech History of the Faculty of Arts at Charles University and the Collection of Biographical Records based at the University of Vienna, with the latter being the initiator of the creation of the database in the early 1990s. Throughout its duration, the project has preserved its topicality, corresponding with the rising demand from the Czech side for the history of everyday life, “history from bellow”, and microhistory.

The goal of the project is a formation and publication of systematic collection of documents in Czech and German languages: memoirs, family chronicles, diaries and other biographical documents connected with the history of Czech lands, which could potentially help historians to research the topics of modern and contemporary history. Even though the database is already a valuable testimony of how the life used to look like in the past, multiple collected memoirs were published with the consent of their authors and owners. At the same time, the database presents

User interface of the project *Dokumentation lebensgeschichtlicher Aufzeichnungen*

The screenshot shows the website's user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'MENSCHEN SCHREIBEN GESCHICHTE' and the slogan 'Schreiben Sie mit!'. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation bar, there are several content blocks:

- Über uns:** A block with an orange background containing text about the project's goals and a link to 'Ziele unseres Projektes'.
- Schwarzes Brett:** A block with a grey background listing recent Kleinanzeigen (classified ads) and a link to 'Verfassen Sie eine Kurznachricht!'. Below this is a block for 'Über andere ...' with a link to 'Die letzten 2 von 22 Projektvorstellungen:'.
- Lesen ...:** A block with a light green background containing text about reading materials and a link to 'Stöbern Sie in unserer Lesetruhe!'. Below this is a block for 'Zum Beispiel ...' featuring the book 'Flamme Gabi und das Elfmeterschießen' by Wolfram Scheucher, with a small image of the book cover.
- Schreiben ...:** A block with a light green background containing text about writing and a link to 'Jede und jeder kann mitschreiben!'. Below this is a block for 'Schreibaufwurf' with a link to 'Who cares?' and a date 'OKTOBER 2015'. Below this is a block for 'Sparkling Science' with a link to 'Wissenschaft ruft Schule' and a small image of a woman's face.

a thorough thematic register, selectively allowing access to the materials to the students and researchers.

The database, administered by an employee of the III. Department of the Institute of History – Vojtěch Kessler – is nowadays an integral part of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and consists of almost four hundred recorded texts from 19th and 20th centuries written mostly on paper in Czech or German language.

## Establishment of the collection and international co-operation

In the Czech Republic, history of everyday life has been a subject of research for the past 30 years. Memory culture and, in this case, the memory of ordinary people was attracting historians for a reason, especially as the fall of the Iron Curtain opened the way for new methodological impulses, particularly in academia. The embedding of history of everyday life within the historiography, however, has its own reasons that are deeply connected with the postmodern turn in humanities.

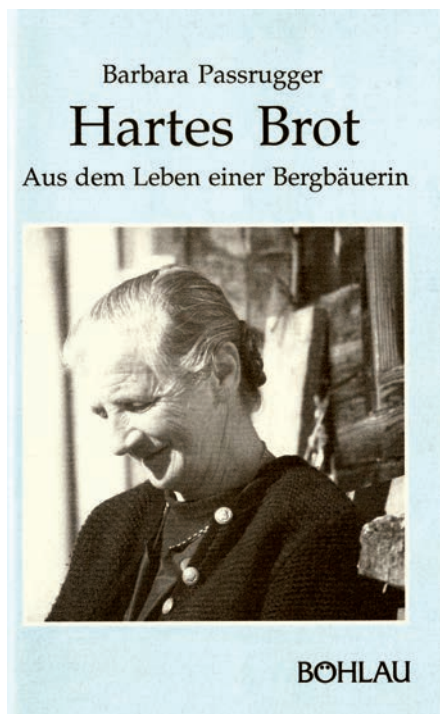
Ancestor of the *Database of the History of Everyday Life* can be found already in the 1950s, when the contemporary generations actively responded to a call of the Archive of National Technical Museum, asking for the testimonies concerning old crafts and workmanship. The project took an unexpected turn. The responders did not hold up firmly to the topic of methods of production, industry and sustenance, and the recollections showed up to be much more about their life stories at the key moments of history. This way, so-called **Klepl Collection** was established (including among many others also memoirs of Miloš V. Havel) used by many renown historians, for example Pavla Vošahlíková used the materials in her works about a life during the Franz Joseph I's rule, wandering, civil servants or school years. One of the famous users of the collection was a writer Adolf Branald, who, in his books attractively presented unknown heroes from the working classes.



Michael Mitterauer, the founder of the project

The origins of the current collection lie in year 1990, when a Professor at the Institute of Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna Michael Mitterauer visited recently the restored Institute of History of Czech Academy of Sciences (those days based in the Emmaus Monastery on Vyšehradská street). His selfless offer to co-operate during the collecting and processing what he called the “*lebenzeitliche Aufzeichnungen*”, *Life records* of ordinary people, started the systematic gathering of the memoirs as well as set the foundations for the *Archive of the History of Everyday Life*. Mitterauer’s attempt to use the sources of everyday life to set a different approach to study the history of Czech lands in the last 150 years found its successor in the already mentioned scholar Jana Losová – one of the establishers of the project.

In order to vividly demonstrate the meaning of collecting memoirs and its potential for the non-academic public, the following year at the Institute of History Michael Mitterauer presented a “living memory” – over-eighty years old Barbara Passrigger. In 1989, her memoirs were published by Viennese publishing house *Böhlau* in the series named *Damit es nicht verlorenggeht* (So it doesn’t get lost) created by Michael Mitterauer himself. The publication carried a fitting name *Hartes Brot* (Hard bread). Memoirs of this humble peasant woman from the mountains became a bestseller not only in form of a printed book, but also as a television bestseller all over Austria.



Emblematic publication *Hartes Brot*



Útredná 26.1. 92

Vážená pani!  
 Mnoho ďakui sa píšaniu k novému roku,  
 ktorí preji i vám. Preji vám tiež blaho-  
 sárny k vašemu zdraviu, pohybu a láskam,

e vyrominke ešte kráťee ke  
 purním ročníku jome psali n  
 si brüdicové a dčerením nám  
 sme každý týden museli vydeh  
 byl čistý. Psali sme na tabulka  
 ten byl krásný a tak každou chro  
 únikou sme psaly až po půl roce  
 ymideění sme dostávaly 4x na  
 lhodila sem ráda. 2 x ohnání som  
 Dorolují si tam raslat 2 vysre  
 jestli se vám hodí, když mi pošlete  
 v r. 1991 Nanatílová

ALBRECHTOVÁ



**Oliveriusova**  
**GLOSA**

č. 2 SRPEN 1995

Výtisk č. 40

Vlasta Albrechtová

**VYPRÁVĚNÍ**  
 o časech minulých  
 v BĚLČI

Those were the external circumstances leading to the creation of *Archive of everyday life* at the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences. It is much more difficult to reconstruct the “internal” reasons arising from the very functioning of the historical science per se, because they continuously remain a part of contemporaneity of the historical research.

In the framework of the project, a close co-operation was established between the already mentioned Institute for Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna and its affiliated *Dokumentation lebensgeschichtlicher Aufzeichnungen*. The latter organisation currently holds around 3000 mostly unpublished biographies, memoirs, diaries etc. of ordinary people from various epochs and social classes. Institutional and personal connections with the university education and research allows the Documentation Centre to engage into its activities a larger number of students and researchers. Therefore, Documentation Centre sets up a secondary role as a workshop for already established or future experts in the field of history of everyday life. In addition to its webpage and the internet forum, the collection is mainly published in the earlier mentioned book series *Damit es nicht verlorengeht*. Thanks to both platforms, the public and media response highly exceeds the framework of the historical research.

Co-operation of Prague and Viennese centres of memory studies undoubtedly has a potential to grow even bigger after the complete release of the database. We can anticipate an increase of recherche requests from professional researchers, as well as a flow of new sources from the wide public. In the current trial phase, *Database of History of Everyday Life* serves as a source for students and researchers in history and affiliated fields of study.

## History of Everyday Life, Everyday history, or “History from Below”?

*“Everyday life consists of the little things one hardly notices in time and space... Through little details, travellers’ notes, a society stands revealed. The ways people eat, dress, or lodge, at the different levels of that society, are never a matter of indifference.”* (Braudel, Fernand, *The Structures of Everyday Life*. New York 1979, s. 29.)

Everyday history, or the history of everyday life, are somewhat enigmatic terms that defy a universal definition. We can certainly define them under the umbrella term of cultural history. But for as many as there are interpretations of the word “culture”, there are concepts of the everydayness. As long as the everyday life was conceived as a mere segment of culture, and the researchers who pondered it in various ways were seen as antiquarians collecting antiques, there was no need for any firmer conceptual frameworks or methods. It was not until the anthropological culturalist shift, which rejected old sociological concepts perceiving culture as a part of an understandable and describable social “totality”, that truly expertly thought-through approaches could be established. In the 1970s and 1980s, two conceptual “sisters” were born: Italian microhistory and German history of everyday life (*Alltagsgeschichte*). The common denominator was an attempt at throwing out the previous domination of quantitative sociologising statistics and returning history



lähr.-Ostrau.  
Taufbuche für  
baptizatorum pro



Taufschein - L  
Stadt Mähr.

Nr. dom	Name des Getauften Nom. baptizati	Religion Religio	Abtammung Thorus	Vater - Pater	Mutter - Mater	Patron - Patroni	Hebamme - Obstetrix
09	Gottlieb Bohumil,	Kath.	Ch. Kuchel linglich	Kuchel Frigenj, Gemeinde die ner. in Mähr. Wrau, Birn des Franz Kuchel, geboren in bei Koxinnkau.	Wickelmann, Tochter des Franz Stard, Häusler in Ober Elbath, a. seiner Gattin Karlsmä, gebor. K.	Eduard Pudel, Arbeiter in M. Ostrau, Maxi, semi garten	Johann Břečka, Kaplan;  Kathinka Jalivka, M. Ostrau # 465

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a letter or a record. The text is written on aged paper and includes several lines of text, some of which are crossed out with blue ink. The text is partially obscured by a red stamp in the upper right corner.



Velečný Jan  
p. Václav Hon  
Pelhřimov

Leop. Bures  
Kaplan



its “human face”. In addition to these approaches, new and previously neglected topics were opened up. Areas of human life, which had been previously overlooked, or even had been taboo, came into researchers perspectives.

The project of historical anthropology came into being. It was deliberately built on social anthropology, more precisely on the idea that an individual does not perceive the surrounding world and neither his/her position in the world entirely objectively, but rather in the way his/her culture determines. Such an apparent boundless subjectification has led to many inspiring questions even within the historical research. Although historical anthropology was conceived in particular for the history of the preindustrial period, it is beneficial for the modern history research as well, primarily because it places an individual in the spotlight, a subject not only with habits or rituals, but also with experiences, moods and feelings. Unlike classic historicism where only social elites make the history, historical anthropology puts the emphasis on the role of all persons in creating history, and in particular on the ordinary people that up to this moment remain mute and invisible for the historical research. At the same time, historical anthropology is turned away from social history that seeks out more objective structures and processes, but does not confer an intentionality to an actor’s behaviour, perceiving regular individuals rather as “bearers” or even “puppets” of history. On the other hand, historical anthropology puts at the centre of its interest an individual, his/her acts and peculiarities, uniqueness and consistency, perceiving a person as an actor in the history. Although the history of feelings, perceptions, humour, gestures, mentalities and other areas does not engender as much mistrust as it used to in past decades, such history still would not belong to the standard methodological and conceptual instruments of historians, sociologists and ethnologists.

In 1993, Richard van Dülmen, the founding father of historical anthropology (who himself called the approach *historische Kulturgeschichte*), set up a specialized journal aptly titled *Historische Anthropologie. Kultur-Gesellschaft-Alltag (Historical Anthropology. Culture – Society – Everydayness)*, which was based on the positions of the already mentioned conceptual “sisters”, historical anthropology and microhistory. The subtitle makes clear the link between the culture, society and the “everydayness”. Our approach, reflected in the meaning, content and objectives of the *Database of the History of Everyday Life*, was particularly inspired by the modifications of the concept offered by a German historian Alf Lüdtke. Being one of the most vocal defenders of the concept of the history of everyday life, Lüdtke did not only enrich the concept with an analysis of experiences lived in a historical period of his research, but also opened up the previously limited time focus to include early modern history.

Like Alf Lüdtke, we do not perceive the everydayness as merely ordinary, routine and “never-ending boredom”. For us, it consists of a mosaic of fragments from which historical reality can be built. Minor and apparently irrelevant details can sometimes be more interesting than the “hard historical facts” that had been keeping these particularities out of sight. Thanks to those small details, the so-called significant events, which from a historical perspective may appear to be important, received additional proportion; a humanity. For historians, the events become more tangible and believable. The study of family relations, everyday life, the issue of gender – in general anthropologising approaches – place the subjective

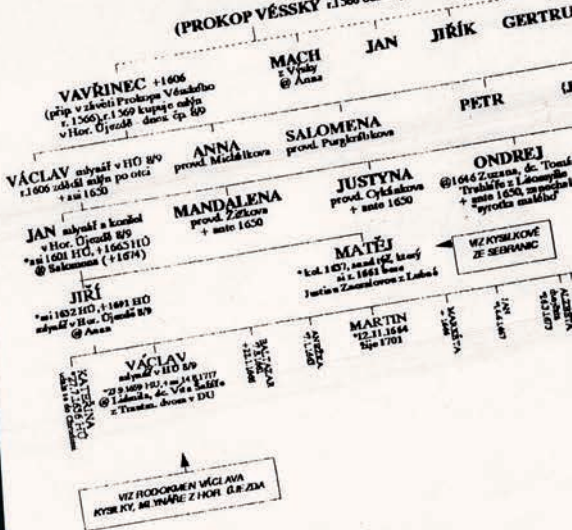
A U T O R

1. Příjmení, jméno  
Name, Vorname D v o
2. Adresa, telefon  
Adresse, Telefon Brjan
3. Kontakt první a  
na další osoby  
Erstkontakt; bzw.  
Kontaktpersonen paní
4. Autorská práva  
Urheberrechte
5. Přání anonymity  
Anonymitätswunsch
6. Pohlaví  
Geschlecht
7. Rok narození  
Geburtsjahr
8. Místo narození  
Geburtsland/ort Kladno
9. Rok úmrtí  
Todesjahr



RODOKMEN RODU KYSLÍKŮ I. (1566 - poč. 19. st.)

(PROKOP VĚSKÝ \*1566 odkazují mlyn v Doudřovicích a VÁVROVCI)



aspect of experience and perception to the foreground. They generally endeavour to return the meaning of an individual in the history, providing an analysis of the perspective “from below” and “from within”.

The enthusiastic appearance of new research areas and concepts has also brought criticism, however, with mostly positive and enriching outcome. The criticism stood on several pillars, with the most fundamental one being the ignorance of the broader context. A popular metaphor described the approach as looking at a large mural through a small peephole. History of everyday life must avoid the tendency of atomising history into a never-ending multitude of sub-topics and giving detailed descriptions of the microcosm of life in the past. As this is not about fragmentation, but rather about a different, previously not applied perspective; an attempt to deviate from the usual description of historical events from ideological or normative positions. History of everyday life does not ask about the importance of events and processes for society, but their importance for a specific person, for example, to ask whether that person acted freely, chose between multiple options, and what did he or she experienced during the choice. Every human’s act is contradictory, and one should focus on these contradictions and inconsistencies.

Other critical voices focused on the lack of a background theory and the ambiguity of everyday history. Individual schools and approaches do not have clear borderlines. Furthermore, every historian poses and answers questions in their own way, according to the essence of the subject of their interest. Compared to microhistory that is theoretically more defined, history of everyday life is much more diverse. Thanks to the opportunities given by oral history, media products, photography and memoirs, historians of the contemporary history can describe a denser and more intimate structure of experiences of “ordinary” men and women. And while historians of everyday life place ordinary people within a network of social relationships, microhistorians reconstruct social relationship networks as a foundation for them to explain historical processes. As importantly, we cannot ignore the criticism engendered by the important question of whether a focus on “the everydayness” of the past does not just lead to the banalisation of history, to focusing on repeatable and mass experience, on the colourless averageness? Above all, history of everyday life should not be perceived as an overarching term for everything that cannot be incorporated into the history of events and politics. Until now, our view has been focused on the general contours of everyday history. The impression that Czech historiography is immune to these trends is erroneous, although we must acknowledge a certain delay. Right after 1989, the term “historical anthropology” and its approaches started entering the Czech academic landscape in two ways. The first one was based on personal informal contacts, being them with Richard van Dülmen, Alf Lüdtke or Michael Mitterauer. In parallel, a native, and in certain aspects contradictory concept began to be applied, based on the viewpoints of Czech ethnography and folkloristics, endeavouring to transform the field into a cultural, social, and consequently historical anthropology. Today, the leading Czech researchers of the history of everyday life include Milena Lenderová, her circle of colleagues and Dülmen’s doctoral student – Pavel Himl. In *Z dějin české každodennosti* (From the History of Czech Everyday Life), however, Milena Lenderová admits that “in the Czech academic environment, history of everyday life presents a certain challenge”.

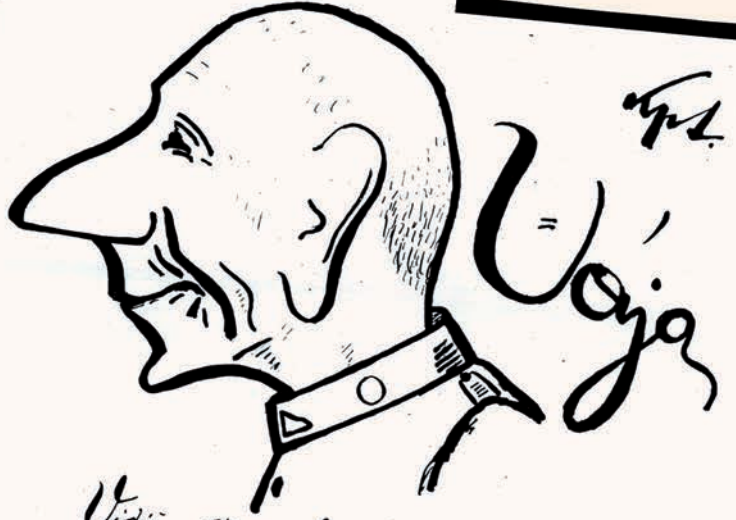
Narodil jsem se v obci Hranice (okres Sokolovsko)  
dne 9. května 1858. Hranice čítá 29 úseč.  
Budeš...



ilev, klary  
včtinn  
pojstáv  
a sklá  
diti. Sp  
nohou  
plat  
távi  
tr

na vojně v  
psal mamín  
nichala vyfo  
a obrázek, a  
jen díky jeho  
mám a jsem  
mám botičky, k  
sám udělal; m  
žon a jemu kniž  
se smával, že tak  
má mít nebudu!

sirov a platili vj  
vyplati — když t  
když dochzel k  
bylo sirov. Vlni  
niko platu a f  
vyšší mýta.  
Hranicích by  
Vausigovi, stry  
bratr miho ob  
Phejda, byl rov  
g Tucep. Pak  
s ženou Kate  
Gunsin Hranice, 22, vna  
Jakub Kramtén, (zanov)  
Frantika, ageni Kumpfeldova  
+ Kramténovy



Vidiš - Vajo, byl jsi "maestr",  
udělali s sebou "čáček",  
za to se jsi dobře zahml  
z Črudimí. Ji vrali - na Kladrubě se dali -  
aby m to zahml.

čelmečkým jsi kapitanem,  
takle jinak zbrklým panem - -  
by mě jednou - já zas tobě -  
potřásl jsem šlucí sobě  
Tys mě pravil chtěl dát malém,  
já tě dolit se Poupalem  
- - a ledi, na zdar - Vajo - ha -  
"soudušni" -

The second methodological and conceptual pillar, on which the Database of the History of Everyday Life stands, is a specific modification of historical-memory studies. Besides the so-called “memory boom” which presents various transformations of perception of human memory as a collective and identity-forming phenomenon, perspectives are established, which put memory as a private substance into the centre of attention. According to Aleida Assman, the fundamental shift, during which personal memory was finally accepted by the humanities, came at the end of the second half of the 20th century, when it was admitted that memories had an ability to reconstruct the past. This apparently banal observation, however, was for a long time not respected. Even today, one encounters researchers who doubt this observation and place memory studies far below the privileged place they had reserved for departmental and positivist history. Such researchers find it difficult to agree with the fact that the outcome of their work may be not a precise picture of the past, but rather its “reflection”. It is clear that a research based on memory studies requires not just new methods and new methodological basis (in particular an emphasis on interdisciplinarity: inter-connections with sociology, economics, psychology, anthropology, archaeology, literary studies, aesthetics, demography, geography, ...), but foremost a new outlook on the sources.

Interest in researching memory also increases interest in the private sphere, as well as the demand for documents and memoirs of the past. And while history of everyday life provides with analytical tools and ways of observing, memory studies guarantee the production of proper sources. In this regard, we would be glad if the Database of the History of Everyday Life could meet one of its anticipated purposes – to become a reservoir of corresponding narrative sources that would be growing in the future.

In this regard, our intention is not entirely unique or unparalleled. In the field of Czech historiography, the Oral History Centre at the Institute of Contemporary History of the CAS in Prague set up by Prof. Miroslav Vaněk has focused particularly on memory narratives. With regards to sociology and ethnology, we might list the journal *Biograf* focusing on qualitative research activities, and the Centre for Collective Memory Research (as a joint workplace of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Humanities at Charles University in Prague), which concentrates on researching various aspects of memory.

## Collection contents and formal database parameters

The collection currently comprises 500 individual texts; ego-documents. These are based on preserved personal and family memoirs, recollections, diaries, photographs, newspaper clippings, facsimiles of personal documents, and other traces of the past, spread over the last 150 years. A significant part of the database is comprised of the materials written in the 1990s when the collection was set up, being the initiative of a sociologist Jana Losová. Regardless of the time of creation, all the texts are linked by the self-perception, and present historical events, descriptions of people, institutions and objects. The resources represent only a segment of reality, providing a certain image of a perception not only of others, but also of oneself (i.e. the author) in their family, in society, in a space or given epoch; basically within large structures. This way, the texts contain information that mirrors the

authors' relationship to a scale of values and demonstrate how it changes over time. The resources reflect the author's knowledge, life experience, justify and explain the meaning of individual human behaviour.

The authors of the texts come from diverse social classes, from all corners of the Czech lands, and represent a various range of occupations, educational levels, political and religious beliefs. The authors link subjectivity and thematizing of an

Detailed description of the sample text in the user interface

<a href="#">Domů</a> <a href="#">Vyhledávání</a> <a href="#">Konto uživatele</a> <a href="#">Oblíbené</a> <a href="#">Rejstříky</a> <a href="#">Kontakt</a> <a href="#">Rešeršní služby</a>	
<p>CITACE <b>DETAIL</b> MARC</p>	
Název pole	Obsah pole
Kontrolní číslo	kpw02477285
Identifikátor kontrolního čísla	CZ-PRHAC
Datum posledního zpracování	20191029144924.3
Kódy fyzického popisu	ta
Údaje pevné délky	191008s1991----xr ok       czce
Zdroj katalogizace	čeština
Kód jazyka	čeština
Kód země vydání/výroby	Česká republika
Hlavní záhlaví - osobní jméno	Šupíková, Anna, 1933- Autor Autor
Údaje o názvu	Anna Šupíková - Vzpomínky na dětství / Anna Šupíková
Nakladatelské údaje, údaje o vytvoření díla, autorská práva	1991
Fyzický popis	12 s. fotografie korespondence
Typ obsahu	text txt rdacontent
Typ média	bez média n rdamedia
Typ nosiče	svazek nc rdacarrier
Všeobecná poznámka	Šupíková, Anna; autor; Čapkova 407, 36 301, Ostrov nad Ohří; 1991; časopis Vlasta.
Všeobecná poznámka	A4
Všeobecná poznámka	rukopis
Resumé atd.	Autorka vzpomíná na své dětství, jež bylo silně poznamenáno oběma světovými válkami a poválečným odsunem německého obyvatelstva. Vyprávění začíná popisem historie autorčiných předků od roku 1905. Většina textu se věnuje jejím dětským létům, stráveným v malé vesnici Těchobuzice u Litoměřic v německy mluvící oblasti. Autorka vzpomíná na bídu válečných let, rovněž ale i na dětské hry a veselé historky. Sběžný rok na vesnici byl pevně spjat se zemědělskými pracemi, závisujícími na ročním období. Autorka popisuje domácí práce jako např. draní peří, pečení chleba, mláčení obilí či česání chmelu. Rozebírá zde i vesnické tradice během vánočních svátků a Velikonoc. Značná pozornost je věnována autorčiným školním létům. Autorka popisuje v textu mnohá příkoří, jež zažívala během nacistické okupace i po jejím skončení, neboť pocházela ze smíšeného manželství Židovky a Němce.
Vedlejší věcné záhlaví-chronologický termín	1905-1951
Klíčové slovo	zemědělství
Klíčové slovo	manželství smíšená
Klíčové slovo	zvyky a obyčeje
Klíčové slovo	vesnice
Klíčové slovo	dětství
Klíčové slovo	menšiny národnostní
Klíčové slovo	válka druhá světová (1939-1945)
Žánr/forma	paměti
Elektronické umístění a přístup	(plný text) (plný text)
Údaj pro souborný katalog	ABB15
Souhlas autora	Ano Ne Neurčeno
Katalogizátor	Šebíkova

individual with the determinants of traditional ideas present in the environment, origin, and collective mentalities. Both of the components are clearly visible in the texts, often being in a mutual tension. The conflict between the individual and collective parts is a true challenge of historical research. Applying historical analysis to such texts means a kind of “adoption” of methods and approaches of ethnology, and partially the ones applied in literary studies. The source collection finds itself in positions partially overlapping with (auto)biographies. Today, one of the most utilised types of sources for biographical research are “biographical narratives”. Biographical research terminology offers a wide range of other titles for this form of text, such as life stories, life histories, human documents/personal documents, ego documents, narrative texts, autobiographical narratives, personal narratives, oral biographies, biographical/life narratives, etc.

A platform for the practical utilisation of the collection is our specialised database. Without meaningful classification system and a user-friendly accessibility, especially for researchers, the collection itself would be meaningless and could become a mere empty thesaurus of historical knowledge. All the texts are gradually undergoing a “hermeneutic reading” process (so-called *text mining*), which results in the creation of metadata (called also *preprocessing*, *tokenisierung*). This process differs from traditional external and internal source analysis. Furthermore, within the Database, it is not so much about understanding sources, or specifically their content (*distance reading*), but rather an ability to submit the information they contain in a form which is understandable and clear for the subsequent recipient, while also being structurable, classifiable, and consequently, searchable. In practice, this means giving individual texts particular “tags”, according to which researchers can get a grasp of an otherwise endless mass of material. Using the metaphor of information pollution, and an surplus of data given by narrative text, this type of service is sometimes referred to as “*information ecology*”.

In 2016, the entire collection was professionally scanned, and new additions go through the process of digitisation even now. It should be stressed, however, that in contrast to other similar projects, the Database of the History of Everyday Life focuses on “quantitative history”. Data digitisation does not take place for data itself: our goal is not “figures, percentages and bar graphs”, but rather accessibility of the material. After Step 1 – the creation of the database, comes Step 2 – making it accessible. Today, the only meaningful solution is digital publishing. We have decided to make use of a tried, tested and generally much-exploited platform titled **Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands**, which is accessible at <https://biblio.hiu.cas.cz>. The platform is also set up and operated by the Institute of History of the CAS.

Each source in the Database of the History of Everyday Life has two records in the database.

A) The first record is author’s memoirs. As it is possible to search for specialist historiographic production (books, articles, persons), it is also possible to browse the Database of the History of Everyday Life for the individual parameters using single-line, expanded or expert search.

An Index of persons (authors and people “featuring” in the texts) is linked to the Czech National Library Database of National Authorities. People who appear in our Database until now have not been reflected in the Database of National

Authorities. Their literary production was mostly limited to the creation of said memories. People who were otherwise active, or even well-known, are extremely rare. The parameters which can be used to search and classify persons when conducting a research, are (in accordance with the already in use Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands) the following: 1) Author's name or names; 2) Author's date of birth and date of death; 3) Author's place of birth and death; 4) Author's area of occupation; 5) Author's affiliation with any institutions (e.g. university, public authority, private subject); 6) Author's profession; 7) Author's gender; 8) Language used by the author; 9) Bibliographical note in the form of sentence

Example of the name authorities in the system Verbis

Systém		Akvizice		Katalogizace		Katalog		Výpůjční modul		Statistiky		Servisní modul		Nápověda	
Uložit		Kontrola polí		Zavřít		Jména osob		Memoáry		Oprava záznamu 414484					
						a oblast působení				patologie					
						373 Afilace (organizace spojená s osobou)									
						a afilace									
						374 Profese									
						a profese				úřednice					
						375 Pohlaví									
						a pohlaví				žena					
						377 Související jazyk									
						a související jazyk				cze					
						400 Odkaz VIZ - osobní jméno				1#					
						w řídicí podpole				jméno za svobodna					
						a Osobní jméno				Bouzková, Marta,					
						d data				1931-					
						2 Jazyk katalogizace									
						500 Odkaz VIZ TĚŽ - osobní jméno									
						a Osobní jméno									
						670 Zdroj nalezených informací									
						a zdroj citace									
						b nalezená informace									
						678 Biografická a historická poznámka									
						a poznámka									
						856 Elektronické umístění a přístup									
						3 bližší určení dokumentu									
						u adresa zdroje									
						y text odkazu									
						907 Poznámka (bibliogr.)									
						a text poznámky				Narozena 13. 8. 1931 v Brně. Úřednice, sekretářka profesora na patologii.					
						989 Osobní údaje									
						e Adresa				Mláčova 9, Brno, 63 800, Česká republika					
						v Vzdělání				Středoškolské					
						b Náboženské vyznání				římskokatolické					
						c Rodinný stav				ženatí/vdaná					
						d Počet dětí				2					
						e Počet sourozenců				3					
						f Prostředí				Městské					
						g Povolání otce				úřední					
						h Povolání matky				domácnost					
						i Povolání partnera				nezjištěno					
						997 Katalogizátor									
						a Šifra katalogizátora				Smrček					



or sentences which define the author (e.g.: “Born 13. 5. 1906 in Prague, died in Kadaň. Lathe operator and political activist.”; 10) Author’s address (usually the correspondence address, from which the material was sent); 11) Author’s highest educational attainment; 12) Author’s religion; 13) Author’s marital status (as given at the time the memory was created); 14) Number of children of the author; 15) Number of the author’s siblings; 16) Author’s social background (e.g. working class, rural, urban intelligentsia, etc.); 17) Occupation of the author’s father, mother and partner.

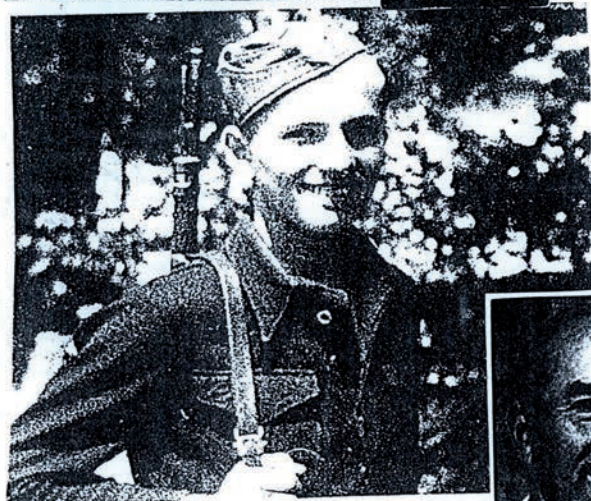
B) The second record is the source itself. In this case, we give the following text parameters: 1) Information on dates, or date the source was produced; 2) Part of the source outside the actual text (e.g. forms, printed matter, photographs, newspaper clippings, etc.); 3) Genre/form of the source (e.g. memories, diaries, correspondence, etc.); 4) Associative data that links the source to a specific author

Example of the the recorded text in the system Verbis

The screenshot shows the Verbis 2.0 software interface. The main window displays a list of recorded text entries. The interface includes a menu bar at the top with options like 'Systém', 'Aktivce', 'Katalogizace', 'Katalog', 'Výpůjční modul', 'Statistiky', 'Servisní modul', and 'Nápověda'. Below the menu bar, there are several icons for system functions: 'Uložit', 'Kontrola polí', 'Svazky', and 'Zavřít'. The main content area is a table with columns for 'Jména osob', 'Memoáry', and 'Oprava záznamu 475651'. The table lists various entries, including '520 Resumé atd.', '500 Všeobecná poznámka', '500 Všeobecná poznámka', '648 Vedlejší věcné záhlaví-chronologický termín', '1651 Geografický údaj (HUAV)', '653 Klíčové slovo', and '600 Bibliografie - osobní jméno'. Each entry has a corresponding text description and a value in the right column.

Jména osob	Memoáry	Oprava záznamu 475651
520 Resumé atd.		##
a Text poznámky		Alois Vystřelí ve výběru ze svého deníku popisuje poslední momenty první světové války na východní frontě z pohledu velitel armády. Zároveň autor iší vztahy armádních předavatelů k ukrajinskému obyvatelstvu, místní zvyky a zorořatost, stejně pokusu o sebevraždu Vystřelíovy manželky. K textu je přiložena jedna část, která se stylistií i obsahem vymyká. Ta popisuj
500 Všeobecná poznámka		##
a Text poznámky		Vystřelí, Alois; syn; Nad Klívkovou 6, 150 00, Praha
500 Všeobecná poznámka		##
a Text poznámky		A4
500 Všeobecná poznámka		##
a Text poznámky		strojopis
648 Vedlejší věcné záhlaví-chronologický termín		#7
a Chronologický termín		1918
1651 Geografický údaj (HUAV)		
a heslo		Halič (oblast) (Polsko, Ukrajina)
1651 Geografický údaj (HUAV)		
a heslo		Lubitów (Ukrajina)
1651 Geografický údaj (HUAV)		
a heslo		Laniviv (Ukrajina)
653 Klíčové slovo		##
a Volně tvořený termín		válka
653 Klíčové slovo		##
a Volně tvořený termín		fronta východní
653 Klíčové slovo		##
a Volně tvořený termín		mír brestítevský (1918)
653 Klíčové slovo		##
a Volně tvořený termín		válka první světová (1914-1918)
653 Klíčové slovo		##
a Volně tvořený termín		armáda
653 Klíčové slovo		##
a Volně tvořený termín		dějiny světové
653 Klíčové slovo		##
a Volně tvořený termín		život osobní
653 Klíčové slovo		##
a Volně tvořený termín		politika habsburské monarchie
600 Bibliografie - osobní jméno		14
a Osobní jméno		Czernin z Chuderic, Ottokar,
c Doplnky ke jménu jiné než data		hrabě,
d Data související se jménem		1872-1932
7 Číslo národní autority		jn20000728091
590 Interní poznámka		
a poznámka		

Many texts are complemented by photographs



or authors; 5) Data on any source title ; 6) Physical description of the source in terms of the number of pages, their format (A4, B5, etc.) and a form (typescript, manuscript, printed); 7) Contact data for the person who added the source to the Database; 8) Chronological data denoting the described event, i.e. the timescale in which the source took place; 9) Mentioned geographical data; 10) Names of persons mentioned in the text who were not the author; 11) The key words of the source; 12) Copyright data; 13) Summary.

## Perspectives on the project and possible utilization

One of the core questions remains – does it make sense to thematicize “minor”, “nameless” people as acting subjects. And is this not just an internal historiographic problem and a juggling with the concepts and methods detached from the needs of the public and not affecting general historical awareness?

Descriptions of life in the family and wider surroundings, description of items, acts, habits and everything we think should not be forgotten – all this can become a source of learning, a source of undiscovered knowledge, a stone in the mosaic of history of everyday life. Narratives can become a rare remembrance, fascinating reading not just for family members but also for other unknown readers. The database should serve as a valuable source of information without which it would

Example of the user interface of the database

The screenshot displays the user interface of the 'Bibliografie dějin Českých zemí' (Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands) database. The header includes the logo 'H' and the text 'Bibliografie dějin Českých zemí Historický ústav AV ČR'. A search bar contains the text 'Zadejte hledaný text'. Navigation links include 'Domů', 'Vyhledávání', 'Konto uživatele', 'Obilíbené', 'Rejstříky', 'Kontakt', and 'Rešeršní služby'. A user profile icon is labeled 'Přihlásit se'.

The main content area features a search result for 'František Vyrččil - paměti z Hané'. The title is 'František Vyrččil' with a sub-title 'Vyrččil, František'. A thumbnail image of a book cover is shown with a green button 'Zobrazit plný text'. To the right of the thumbnail, it says '5 s. Elektronické umístění a přístup plný text'. Below the thumbnail, there is a list of keywords: 'Klíčová slova: vesnice; zvyky lidové; válka prusko-rakouská (1866); rolnictvo; povolání; svatby'. Below the keywords, there is a list of chronological data: 'Chronologický údaj: 1866-1914' and geographical data: 'Geografický údaj: Měrovice nad Hanou (okres Píseň); Píseň (okres)'. A note at the bottom states: 'Paměti Františka Vyrččila jsou neusporádanou sbírkou krátkých vzpomínek na vesnický život v Měrovcích na Haně ke konci 19. století. Autor popisuje různé vesnické povolání, jejich funkce a společenskou prestiž. Dále je zde také pasáž o svatebních zvycích a životě zdejších za prusko-rakouské války roku 1866. Poznámka: Vyrččil, Alois; vruk autora; Nad Klívkovou 6, 150 00, Praha; A4; strojpis. Žánr a forma: paměti'.

On the right side of the search result, there are several interactive elements: a navigation bar with 'Zpět na vyhledání', 'Předchozí', and 'Následující'; a 'Memoáry' section; an 'Obilíbené' section with a heart icon and a 'Do oblíbených' button; a 'Žádné položky' section; and a 'Navštívené' section showing a recent visit to 'Anna Šuplíková - Vzpomínky na dětství' by 'Anna Šuplíková' from 1991.

often not be possible to grasp the deeper context of “great” history. We also recognise interest in such testimonies in the public space. The autobiographical narratives of maids, peasant girls, woodcutters, the children of small householders and others attract not only social and cultural scientists, but have also been published in books and presented in pop culture (movies and television). They have proven to be popular and very well-received. On the contrary, the testimony of larger characters and actors in “great” history – for example rulers and leaders – have receded into the background. It is as if the person of *today*, aware of the relativisation of his or her place in society and history has sought out similar people from periods gone by. The books published on the anniversary of the First World War might be regarded as a kind of litmus test. Clearly dominating over large syntheses full of images and expert analytical studies with new conceptual approaches were the memories of “nameless people”, soldiers and civilians. The conveyance of the experiences clearly prevailed over the explanatory history, even popular one. Furthermore, the approach of the history of everyday life and its sources allows to speak out to what was previously in history a practically silent (or silenced) half of human society – women, which is an aspect we should not disregard.

The original concept of history of everyday life (*Alltagsgeschichte*) was connected to analysing the everyday in the light of the responsibilities of the individual within German history of the 20th century. It was, amongst other things, an attempt to investigate the participation of individual in a totalitarian system. First of all in the Federal Republic of Germany in the 1970s and 1980s, it was about the extreme experience of National Socialism. In the 1990s new discussion arose whether what had developed in East Germany was a repressive dictatorial regime or whether it

Work team entering the metadata into the system



Analysis and interpretation of memoirs

KORRESPONDENCE  
/evidence/ :

A U T O R

1. Příjmení, jméno Name, Vorname	D v o ř á k o v á Alena
2. Adresa, telefon Adresse, Telefon	Brjanská 3013, K l a d n o 272 04
3. Kontakt první a na další osoby Erstkontakt; bzw. Kontaktpersonen	paní Fialová, bytem tamtéž
4. Autorská práva Urheberrechte	
5. Prání anonymity Anonymitätswunsch	
6. Pohlaví Geschlecht	ženské
7. Rok narození Geburtsjahr	1940
8. Místo narození Geburtsland/ort	Kladno
9. Rok úmrtí Todesjahr	
10. Počet dětí Kinderzahl	dvě
11. Počet sourozenců Geschwisterzahl	jeden
12. Rodinný stav Familienstand	vdova
13. Rok svatby Heiratsjahr	1962
14. Nářezná příslušnost Religionsbekenntnis	římsko-katol.
15. Region původu (země/vesnice, maloměsto, velkoměsto) Herkunftsregion (Land/Dorf, Kleinstadt, Großstadt)	město
16. Školní vzdělání Schulbildung	střední
17. Povolání-zaměstnání Berufliche Tätigkeiten	úřednice
18. Rok narození rodičů Geburtsjahre der Eltern	otec 1914, matka 1917
19. Povolání rodičů Berufe d. Eltern	krejčí, krejčová
20. Poznámky	

was partially a type of hybrid social contract between the governing party and the ordinary people. It is the history of everyday life, or more specifically its source material, which can be instrumental in this regard. There is a direct parallel here between the German and Czech, or Czechoslovak, experience. The mechanisms for individuals to live or survive in oppressive social systems allows us to reconstruct the instruments (and their limits) of socio-political doctrines.

The collection is available for public researchers. So far, it attracted especially history students from Czech and German universities. All information on the database and the entire project can be found on the Institute of History CAS website (<http://www.hiu.cas.cz/cs/databaze/databaze-dejinsvedniho-dne.ep/>). As noted above, the Database of the History of Everyday Life is located on a platform used by the Bibliography of the History of the Czech Lands database popular amongst historians (<https://biblio.hiu.cas.cz/>).

The unorganised Database of the History of Everyday Life was used as a source base from the 1990s by the Viennese organisation *Dokumentation lebensgeschichtlicher Aufzeichnungen* for publications as part of a specialised book series of publishing house *Boehlau* (CHVOJKA, Erhard, *Grossmütter...* Wien 1992; VOŠAHLÍKOVÁ, Pavla, *Auf der Walz. Erinnerungen böhmischer Handerksgesellen*; also, *Vom Amts wegen. Österreichungarische beamtete erzählen*. Wien 1998; LOSOVÁ, Jana, *Kindheit in Böhmen und Mähren*, Wien 1996). The Institute of History CAS has set up its own book series based on sources from the Database of the History of Everyday Life. The first issued volume is a publication dedicated to memoirs from the period of the First World War (KESSLER, Vojtěch – ŠRÁMEK, Josef, *Tváře války...* Praha 2019).

Based on the work on the database (and in liaison with colleagues from the Institute of History CAS and other workplaces involved in memory, sociologising and anthropologising approaches to the history) a proposal was made to establish **Memory Studies and History of Everyday Life Research Centre**. The planned centre would secure the collecting and digitisation of memory texts. In the same time, it should provide a discussion and working platform for researchers and research institutions dealing with the topics within history of everyday life, places of memory, collective memory and identity studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. The very connection of memory studies as an interdisciplinary field and everyday history as a subfield of one's own historical production encourages discussion across a wider area including entire subjects (history, sociology, ethnology, etc.), as well as partial conceptual and methodological approaches (economic and social history, history of mentalities, historical anthropology, historical sociology, historical demography and other fields of study). The above postulated interdisciplinarity is absolutely fundamental and shaping for the Memory Studies and History of Everyday Life Research Centre. Without such perspective and mutually enriching approaches, methods, objectives, topics and in particular the results of research, contents-defined co-operation within history of everyday life would not be justified. No other historiographical discipline has experienced the same rise within international research as memory studies has. Undoubtedly the common subject of research, historical memory, has contributed towards this co-operation. The analysis and interpretation of narrated life stories represents one of the few approaches to grasp at least some processes in the re-construction of the past.

Biographical data about the personages of political, social, economic, technical, scientific, cultural and other spheres of life in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia is provided by *Generální heslář Biografického slovníku českých zemí* [General Index of the Bibliographical Dictionary of the Czech Lands] (BSČZ – <http://biography.hiu.cas.cz>), which started to come into existence in 1990 and has been accessible to the public since 2015. It contains basic information about approximately 51,000 living and non-living personages (2016), with new information being continually added and made more accurate; it represents a fundamental addition to the printed version. *Mapový portál Historického atlasu měst České republiky* [Map Portal of the Historic Atlas of Towns of the Czech Republic] (<http://towns.hiu.cas.cz>; <http://towns.hiu.cas.cz/new/index.php>) makes cartographic sources, reconstruction maps and depictions accessible as a model study of the transformations of urban landscape. It is based on the printed *Historický atlas měst ČR* [Historic Atlas of Towns of the Czech Republic] (28 volumes, 1995–2015), which documents the development of selected urban settlements in Bohemia, Moravia and Czech Silesia by means of old maps, views, aerial photographs, reconstruction maps and models; it is processed in accordance with the town history framework rules set by the European Commission for the Town History. Thanks to digital technologies, the map portal can publish basic maps from the individual volumes as well as an extensive set of more than 50,000 maps, map atlases and globes preserved in the Czech lands (*Virtuální mapová sbírka* [Virtual Map Collection] – <http://www.chartae-antiquae.cz/cs/about>, in whose creation the Institute of History participates), processing the landscape environment in the course of history (*Historické krajiny* [Historical Landscapes] – <http://landscapes.hiu.cas.cz>). The database *August Sedláček ve věku digitálních technologií* [August Sedláček in Digital Technology Era] (<http://www.augustsedlacek.cz>) provides access to the gigantic set of source excerpts of the Czech historian August Sedláček (1843–1926) comprised of more than 400,000 file cards with genealogical and topographical records from Bohemia and Moravia. An original methodology and software have been developed for complete processing of the card files; in 2012–2015, it was used to preserve the unique documentation of the history of the nobility and their residences as well as the development of towns, villages, castles, palaces and strongholds in the Czech lands (including documents no longer preserved in the original version). The basic functions of the system are described in a manual, which is available on: [http://www.augustsedlacek.cz/sites/default/files/as\\_pruvodce\\_cz.pdf](http://www.augustsedlacek.cz/sites/default/files/as_pruvodce_cz.pdf) (Czech and English language versions). Ecclesiastical but also cultural, social and political history of the 16–18th centuries gained a new basis in *Bio-bibliografická databáze řeholníků v českých zemích v raném novověku* [Bio-Bibliographical Database of Members of Monastic Orders in the Czech Lands in the Early Modern Period] (<http://reholnici.hiu.cas.cz/katalog/>), which came into existence in connection with research by scholarship holders of the Czech Historical Institute in Rome and includes more than 8,250 personal entries (2016).

Database of the History of Everyday Life is one of the outcomes of an international research project involving the Institute for Economic and Social History of University of Vienna and the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences. One of the objectives of the project is to create a documentary collection of old memories, family chronicles, diaries and other biographical recollections. Today, this collection presents a valuable testimony to the lives of ordinary people in the past. It contains over four hundred biographical records of various sizes, now digitised and catalogued. All data is freely available at the online database [biblio.hiu.cas.cz](http://biblio.hiu.cas.cz).

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Science Around Us | Places of Common Memory

*History of Everyday Life Database | Milan Hlavačka, Vojtěch Kessler, David Smrček*

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